

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1888 - SB 1853

February 13, 2022

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires county election commissions to utilize the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) to verify that a person is no longer qualified to vote before purging the person's registration. Authorizes same-day registration and voting for qualified voters beginning on the first day of a period of early voting through the day of the election.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – \$2,074,800/FY22-23
\$31,000/FY23-24
\$667,100/FY24-25
\$31,000/FY25-26
\$430,000/FY26-27

Increase Local Expenditures –
\$474,100/FY22-23 and Every Four Years Thereafter*
\$237,100/FY23-24 and Every Two Years Thereafter*

Assumptions:

- According to the ERIC bylaws, a one-time membership fee of \$25,000 is required from each state upon admission.
- In addition to the membership fee, ERIC requires annual membership dues which form the basis of ERIC's budget.
- The current annual membership fee for ERIC is approximately \$31,000.
- ERIC requires its members to conduct postcard mailings to potentially eligible but unregistered voters regularly. It is assumed that biennially would qualify as regularly.
- According to information provided by the SOS, approximately 1,814,000 voters (potentially eligible, but unregistered, in-state movers, and out-of-state movers) would need to be contacted, at a total cost of \$399,000.
- In FY22-23 the total cost for membership in ERIC is \$424,000 (\$25,000 one-time membership + \$399,000 mailings). In FY23-24 and each subsequent year the total cost of membership in ERIC will be \$31,000.
- Beginning in FY24-25 and every two years thereafter, there would be a \$399,000 state expenditure in post card mailings.

HB 1888 - SB 1853

- The proposed legislation would allow qualified individuals to register to vote on election day and during the early voting period.
- In order to process both voter registrations and voters participating in early voting, some counties will require additional computers and staff.
- According to information supplied by the SOS, 1,745 polling locations will require an extra computer at an estimated cost of \$940 each.
- The one-time increase in state expenditures for purchasing computers is estimated to be \$1,640,300 (\$940 per computer x 1,745 computers).
- Voter registration applications will be reprinted to reflect the correct voter registration deadline, resulting in a one-time increase in state expenditures of \$10,500.
- The total one-time increase in state expenditures is estimated to be \$1,650,800 (\$1,640,300 computer costs + \$10,500 application reprinting).
- The total increase in state expenditures in FY22-23 is \$2,074,800 (\$424,000 + \$1,650,800).
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-4-109, officers of elections, judges, machine operators, and inspectors shall be paid for their services on election-day a minimum of \$50 per day.
- The early voting period lasts for 14 days, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-6-102, and early voting occurs no more than 20 days nor less than 5 days before the day of the election.
- The proposed language will result in an increase in expenditures of \$237,050 [(\$50 compensation x 1,745 election-day polling locations) + (\$50 compensation x 214 early voting locations x 14 days of early voting)] per election cycle.
- In years with a Presidential Preference Primary, the state will be responsible for such costs; therefore, in FY23-24 and every four years thereafter there will be an increase in state expenditures estimated to exceed \$237,050 for additional staff.
- In FY22-23 and every two years thereafter, there will be a mandatory increase in local expenditures of \$474,100 (\$237,050 per election cycle x 2 election cycles) for the August primary and November general elections; and in FY23-24 and every four years thereafter, there will be a mandatory increase in local expenditures of \$237,050.
- The increase in state expenditures is estimated to be the following over the next ten-year period indefinitely:

Fiscal Year	ERIC Fee	Postage	Presidential Elections	Total
FY23-24	\$31,000			\$31,000
FY24-25	\$31,000	\$399,000	\$237,050	\$667,050
FY25-26	\$31,000			\$31,000
FY26-27	\$31,000	\$399,000		\$430,000
FY27-28	\$31,000			\$31,000
FY28-29	\$31,000	\$399,000	\$237,050	\$667,050
FY29-30	\$31,000			\$31,000
FY30-31	\$31,000	\$399,000		\$430,000
FY31-32	\$31,000			\$31,000
FY32-33	\$31,000	\$399,000	\$237,050	\$667,050

*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: *no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/ch